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BOOK REVIEWS

GOVERNOR EDWARD COLES. Edited with Introduction and notes by Clarence Wolworth Alvord, University of Illinois. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Vol. XV. Biographical Series, Vol. I. Published by the Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill., 1920. pp. 435, with portrait and fac-similes.

Unless he is a special student of American history, the average Virginian is apt to think that the work of Virginians who emigrated from the State was bounded on the north by the Ohio River. This is a great mistake. In our last issue a life of Governor Stevens Thomson Mason was noticed, and in the book whose title is given above, the even more distinguished career of another Virginian is given. Edward Coles of "Enniscorthy", Albemarle County, was educated at Hampden-Sidney and William and Mary and soon after leaving college inherited a considerable estate in lands and negroes. Even in his student days he had been interested in the question of slave-owning, and before long determined that he could not only not hold slaves, but could not live in a state where slavery existed. In 1819 he removed to Illinois where he immediately freed his negroes. In 1822 he was elected Governor and led a most remarkable campaign against the establishment of slavery in that state. It is a matter of surprise to those not well acquainted with the history of Illinois, to learn that it is probable that in 1822 a majority of the inhabitants were in favor of introducing slavery. This book gives a detailed and very interesting account of how Governor Coles defeated the movement and is equally full in regard to the other periods of his life.

In more compact and briefer form is a biographical sketch (a pamphlet) of "Edward Coles, Second Governor of Illinois", by W. T. Norton. Each of these is a worthy tribute to a notable Virginian.

Reading the life of Edward Coles suggests a question. Did the teaching at William and Mary 1790-1800, in the course of which so much use was made of Rousseau, Godwin and Paine, tend to influence the students against slavery? A remark by Chapman Johnson in one of his letters published in this number is some evidence in this direction.

THE MCCARTHY'S IN EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY. By Michael J. O'Brien. Author of "A Hidden Phase of American History", "Ireland's Part in America's Struggle for Liberty". New York, Dodd, Mead & Co., 1921, pp. 322.

Mr. O'Brien found a surprising number of McCarthy's, McCartys and Cartys, during the colonial period—surprising that is to those who are in the habit of thinking of the colonists as almost entirely of English descent. He has done his work thoroughly for all the colonies, but the chief interest of the book to Virginians is his very minute and careful study of the Virginia McCartys. The author takes issue with the com-

plers of some of the other genealogies of the McCartys, but it is not safe to assert that the last word has been said until an absolutely complete examination of all the records has been made. Mr. O'Brien has done much work in this line and his book will be of special interest to Virginia McCartys and their descendants.

THE DEVON CARYS. In two volumes. Privately printed. The DeVinne Press, New York, 1920, pp. 391, 324, with many illustrations, charts, &c.

The library or individual receiving a copy of Mr. Fairfax Harrison's beautiful book is fortunate. That the work is a handsome piece of book-making is the least of its merits. It is a monument to his wide and scholarly investigation and yet the results of great research are given in a very easy and agreeable style. The book is of such a nature that no one, without Mr. Harrison's information would be capable of writing a critical review, even if there were any need for criticism. The reader cannot help feeling however, that the Carys of England were, taking them as a whole, of more importance than the author, modestly, thinks them to be, and that life in colonial Virginia was not quite so drab and dreary as some of his pages would represent it.

These objections, however, are merely matters of personal opinion. Mr. Harrison has done in "The Devon Carys", what authors seldom do. He has done his work so thoroughly and so well that it is not probable that any other book on the subject will ever be written.

TAFT PAPERS ON THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. Edited by Theodore Marburg, M. A., LL. D., and Horace E. Flack, Ph. D. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1920, pp. 340.

This collection of the papers of Wm. H. Taft groups in order his speeches, and the correspondence, especially with the White House, on the League of Nations. Particular attention is given to the addresses in which Mr. Taft met the objections made to entering the League on the ground that it would interfere with our sovereignty and the Monroe Doctrine, abandonment of our traditional policy, &c.

It is a book of great value to students of recent history.

ULYSSES S. GRANT. HIS LIFE AND CHARACTER. By Hamlin Garland. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1920, pp. 524, illustrated.

While the reader of this book should bear in mind that the author is a most enthusiastic admirer of General Grant, he will find it a valuable and interesting account of a great figure in American history. Mr. Garland has evidently made very careful preparation for his work and, of course, knows how to present his subject in a very readable and attractive way.